

Welcome to the very first issue of e-Linguapax. We hope this newsletter will interest both those working directly with linguistic diversity (be they students, scholars, professionals or activists), and those from other domains who can draw on linguistic diversity as a source of poetic and social imagination.

The genesis of Linguapax was in Kiev in 1987, 30 years ago, within the framework of UNESCO, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. Linguapax was born of the conviction that language learning was a good way to promote peace and understanding between peoples. Years later in 2006, Linguapax as an independent Barcelona-based organisation founded an international network that survives to this day: A network of activists promoting language revitalization in their localities, in direct contact with their communities. Today, Linguapax looks at the world's languages both in their home territories and through the global migrations of their speakers.

The simultaneous linguistic diversity found in our contemporary digital environment multiplies the combinations of human relativity, generating and accelerating unpredictable spaces for cultural transformation. Consequently, new threats and opportunities for languages are emerging. We are all increasingly inclined to rethink languages: What they are, how they make us, what we can do with them.

Beyond the urgent need to feed the archives of our universities by documenting languages on the verge of extinction, work for linguistic diversity is actually work for a Global Welfare State, something to which mainstream globalization has paid little, if any, attention.

Each issue of e-Linguapax will include an interview. Our first interview is with Matthias Brenzinger, founder and director of the Center for African Linguistic Diversity at the University of Cape Town in South Africa, and distinguished recipient of the Linguapax Award for 2017.

We hope you will enjoy reading e-Linguapax each month. Your feedback will be most welcome.